

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

TOP SECRET

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	25X1
SUBJECT	1. Customs Inspection at Szczecin 2. Security Search of Ships at Swinoujscie	DATE DISTR.	30 March 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

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1. Up to autumn of 1953, the customs officials at Szczecin (Stettin) carried out their duties very conscientiously, especially in regards to searches for contraband. This conscientiousness was to be explained by the personal advantages they reaped from it, since it was their practice to put a deliberately low value on the seized goods and then buy them up at the auctions to which no one else was admitted. The goods were then sold by them at a high profit.
2. After the recent liquidation of the watch smuggling ring at Szczecin,<sup>1</sup> it was decreed that the seized contraband was henceforth to be sent to Warsaw for disposal, thus depriving the customs men of their unofficial income, especially since they receive no bonus for the goods they seize.
3. As a result of this change, the customs officials are now less zealous in their searches for smuggled goods, since they take the view that by keeping on good terms with the seamen they will be more likely to make some money "on the side" by presents and bribes, forming a useful addition to their meager earnings, which amount on the average to 600 zl. a month.
4. The duplicate security check of vessels sailing from Szczecin, which took place at Swinoujscie (Swinemuende) at the end of December 1953, is no longer being continued. The check is reported to have been enforced only during the Christmas holiday for fear of some acts of sabotage.

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